

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 17, 2003. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 42-44, and 47-49 were pending in this application. Claims 42-44, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). To expedite prosecution, Applicant has further amended Claims 42 and 49. New Claims 50-58 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

In the drawings

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has withdrawn all objections to the drawings.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 42, 43, 44, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over G.B. 2 304 513 A (hereafter "G.B. '513) in view of "*The Uni-Knot*" and U.S. Patent 2,835,069 to A. J. Flye, Sr. (hereinafter "Flye, Sr.").

Claim 42 as amended to call for various features including "the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye when the sliding loop knot has releasably engaged the fishing line with the eye...."

A copy of U.K. Patent G.B. 2 304 513 B which issued from G.B. '513 is enclosed. Claim 1 of the issued U.K. patent calls for "An eyeless fish hook...an open, curved or angular, hook-shaped region and an end stop, said slip catch...disposed between said shank and said end stop." Applicant respectfully notes that G.B. '513 and the associated U.K. patent teaches an eyeless fish hook. Claim 42 as amended calls for various features including "an eye disposed at a second end of the shank...the eye having a generally circular configuration defined in part by a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to permanently form a gap disposed between the distal end of the eye and the shank...a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof without crossing the shank with the blocker...." G.B. '513 clearly teaches away from a fishing apparatus having an eye in combination with other features as defined in amended Claim 42.

Applicant respectfully submits that Flye, Sr. does not show or teach any features of Applicant's invention as defined in amended Claim 42. Applicant further submits that there is no teaching in any of the references cited by the Examiner to combine Flye, Sr. with either G.B. '513 or the Uni-Knot. Flye, Sr. expressly teaches attaching snell hook assemblies 14 and 15 with intermediate snell hook fastening loop assemblies 12 and 13. Applicant respectfully submits that Flye, Sr. does not show or teach the use of a sliding loop knot as defined in amended Claim 42 with a fishing apparatus having an eye as described in amended Claim 42. Flye, Sr. does not show or teach any use of a knot which may be tightened against the eye as described in amended Claim 42. The Uni-Knot is substantially different from any knot shown in Flye, Sr. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has provided no basis for combining Flye, Sr. with either the Uni-Knot or U.K. '513. Flye, Sr. clearly teaches a way from both G.B. '513, the Uni-Knot and Applicant's invention as defined in amended Claim 42.

Applicant requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of Claim 42 as amended and Claims 43, 44, 47 and 48, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 42.

Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over G.B. '513 A in view of the Uni-Knot.

Claim 49 as amended calls for various features including "... the shank having a first diameter and the eye having a second diameter at least approximately twice the first diameter ... the diameter of the sliding loop may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye."

Claim 49 has been further amended to identify various features of Applicant's invention such as "the shank having a first diameter and the eye having a second diameter approximately twice the first diameter" As previously noted, G.B. '513 expressly teaches an eyeless fish hook. G.B. '513 further teaches a curved portion 26 which is a slip catch. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of Claim 49 as amended.

New Claims 50-58 include various elements and features from Claims 1 and 17 of U.S. Patent 5,970,650 plus additional elements of Applicant's invention concerning an eye, a

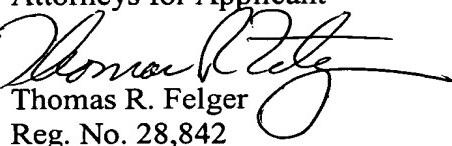
sliding loop and sliding loop knot. None of the references cited by the Examiner show or teach a fish hook and a fishing line as defined in Claims 50-58.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of claims 42-44 and 47-49 as amended and new Claims 50-58.

Applicant encloses a check in the amount of \$126.00 for the new claims. Applicant also enclosed a Notification of Extension of Time for one-month and a check in the amount of \$55.00 for the filing fee. Applicant believes there are no further fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas R. Felger, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at 512.322.2599.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 17 JULY 2003

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Enclosures: U.K. Patent G.B. 2 304 513 B
U.S. Patent 5,970,650
Notification of Extension of Tim